

**Together With**



SPRING 2003

A PUBLICATION OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## New Commissioner for the TDLWD



**J**ames G. Neeley was appointed Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development by Governor Phil Bredesen in January 2003. Neeley also served as state labor commissioner from 1975 to 1979. Neeley has tremendous knowledge of occupational safety and health issues with more than 23 years experience. He was a founder of the Tennessee Safety and Health Congress 26 years ago.

Neeley is currently a member of Governor Bredesen's Jobs Cabinet to improve Tennessee's economy. Prior to his service as Commissioner, Neeley served as president of the Tennessee AFL-CIO for 24 years. He was the first Tennessee state president to be named to the National AFL-CIO Board.

Commissioner Neeley has a long history of public service. In Middle Tennessee, Neeley is a member of the Board of Directors for the United Way. Throughout his career he has been instrumental in bringing new business, industry, and jobs to our state. He served on the Advisory Board of the Federal Reserve Bank and as a board member for the pharmaceutical company Shering-Plough.

Commissioner Neeley knows the importance of an educated workforce. He currently serves as a board member to the Commission on Higher Education. In the past Neeley served as Chairman to the Tennessee State Council on Vocational Education and Chairman of the Huntingdon Special School District Board of Education.

**DON'T FORGET...**

**TN Safety & Health Congress & Exposition July 20-23, 2003**

**Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville**

**Call 615-741-7143 or visit [www.tnsafetycongress.org](http://www.tnsafetycongress.org)**



## New STAR Sites Added

The Tennessee Voluntary Protection Program is pleased to welcome two new members to the family of Tennessee Volunteer STAR sites. Olin Chlor-Alkali Products located in Charleston received the states highest safety and health award in October of 2002. The facility manufactures chlorine and other chemicals. Frito-Lay's Pulaski facility then became the states fourteenth STAR facility in February of this year.

With the presentation of the STAR award to the Pulaski facility, Frito-Lay became the first company in Tennessee to have two separate facilities recognized as members of the Voluntary Protection Program.

The Frito-Lay Fayetteville facility received STAR certification in June of 2000.

VPP participants are a select group of facilities that have designed and implemented outstanding health and safety programs. STAR participants have undergone extensive evaluation of their safety and health programs and agree to assist other companies attempting to establish a world class program. VPP participant sites generally experience from 60 to 80 percent fewer lost workday injuries than would be expected of an "average" site of the same size in their industries.

*For more information contact Jim Flanagan at (615)741-5421.*





Together with TOSHA is the newsletter of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

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Comments and suggestions are welcome. Inquiries regarding Together With TOSHA should be directed to the TOSHA Division Training Section: (615)741-5726



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# TOSHA → TIPS

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**Condition:** Grounded electrical conductors were connected or attached so as to reverse the electrical polarity of the circuit.

**Potential Effects:** Burns and smoke-related injuries, from fire. Electric shock to equipment operator.

**Citation:** 29 CFR 1910.304(a)(2)

**Recommended Action:** Trace the circuit wiring to determine where the faulty connection was made. Connection can usually be made by connecting the hot (black) conductor to the brass terminal on the outlet and the neutral conductor to the white (light) terminal. A qualified electrician only should make this connection.

Reversed polarity can be dangerous because many pieces of equipment will operate properly even though the supply wires are not connected in the proper order. Traditional reversed polarity occurs when the black (ungrounded) and white (grounded) conductors are reversed. A shock hazard may not exist, but other mechanical hazards can occur. For example, if an internal fault should occur in the wiring, the equipment would not stop when the switch is released or would start as soon as a worker plugs the supply cord into the improperly wired outlet. This could result in serious injury.

When the black (ungrounded) and green (grounding) conductors have been reversed, an extremely dangerous situation can occur. A metal case covering a piece of equipment so wired will be "hot." When a worker picks it up and touches a conductive surface in the surroundings, he/she will receive a serious, or even deadly, shock.

When the white (grounded) and green (grounding) conductors are reversed, a hazard can also exist, even though this should not actually be called reversed polarity. In this case the white wire is being used to provide equipment grounding. Under certain conditions this could be dangerous.

# All About TOSHA

Part 4

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All inspections conducted by TOSHA's enforcement branch are unannounced; no one at the facility to be inspected will know when the inspection will take place. Inspections are scheduled according to the following priority:

Priority 1  
Imminent Danger  
Situations

Priority 2  
Fatality or Catastrophe  
Investigations

Priority 3  
Complaints/  
Referrals

Priority 4  
Programmed Inspections

Priority 5  
Special Emphasis  
Programs & Targeting  
Initiatives

**Priority 1** - Imminent danger situations are those where there is a danger that a worker will be killed or suffer serious injury or illness unless TOSHA acts immediately. When such situations come to TOSHA's attention, a compliance officer will be sent to the scene at once. Examples include a worker exposed to a fall without proper fall protection equipment in use; a worker working in an open trench without proper shoring or sloping; and a worker exposed to a dangerous chemical release.

**Priority 2** - When a worker dies at work, the employer must report the death to TOSHA within eight hours. The only exception to this is deaths that occur due to traffic accidents or on a commercial or public transportation system. Employers must also report workplace catastrophes, defined as the in-patient hospitalization of three or more employees due to a workplace incident, within eight hours of occurrence. Employers may call a local area office or the Nashville central office.

After working hours and on weekends, employers should call 1-800-249-8510 and leave a report on the voice mail.

#### Information to be included in the report:

- The establishment name
- The location of the incident
- The time of the incident
- The number of fatalities or hospitalized employees
- The names of injured employees
- A contact person and his or her phone number
- A brief description of the incident

**Priority 3** - Complaints may be filed by a past or present employee, a representative of employees, or a concerned citizen who believes there is an unsafe or unhealthy condition to which employees are exposed. TOSHA will respond with either an on-site inspection or a phone/fax investigation. Referrals may be made by another source, including physicians and the media. They are handled in a similar manner as complaints.

**Priority 4** - Programmed inspections are conducted at high hazard worksites. National Bureau of Labor Statistics data are used to rank industries. Establishment lists are in random order and contain all the establishments in Tennessee in the top 200 industries. A programmed inspection is generally a comprehensive inspection of the worksite.

**Priority 5** - TOSHA also conducts inspections in areas where the need for intervention is greatest. Special emphasis areas include fall hazards, trenching and excavation work, occupational noise exposure, carbon monoxide exposure, and amputations. Brochures are available from TOSHA offices on each of these programs. TOSHA also conducts special inspections in nursing homes, metal working facilities, and industries where methylene chloride is used.

# LEARN & LIVE

## A TOSHA CASE FILE ANALYSIS

A spray painter at a cabinet and millwork manufacturer was working in a hazardous spray room while using flammable and combustible paints. There were over-spray accumulations of at least one inch of combustible powder on the fan motors, fan blades, and fan frames and also on the walls. The spray room was constructed of concrete but had wood ceiling joists. There was no extinguishing system in the spray room. The fan motor was located inside the spray area.

Several years before, a fire had occurred in one of the spray room fans. The company owners fought the fire with fire extinguishers, putting the fire out only to have it re-ignite again and again. The spray painter also wore a respirator with saturated organic vapor cartridges and had not been fit tested, medically evaluated for respirator use, or trained.

To prevent a fire and protect the worker from paint vapors:

- Install a spray booth meeting the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.107
- Keep all spraying areas free from accumulation of combustible deposits, cleaning them daily if necessary
- Protect the spray area with approved sprinklers
- Place a "No Smoking" sign in the spraying area
- Maintain an air velocity of at least 100 linear feet per minute in the spray booth
- Establish a respiratory protection program according to 29 CFR 1910.134
- Train spray painters on the chemical and physical hazards of the paints and other chemicals they use.

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